

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 (ISO) W

----- 114337

R 271233Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9239

UNCLAS CARACAS 6564

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP VE

SUBJ: SPECIALIZED TRADE MISSIONS-INCREASED ADVANCE
OFFICER ACTIVITIES

REF: A-9156 OF DEC. 13, 1974; STATE 140278

1. RECENT TRADE MISSIONS TO CARACAS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY HANDI-
CAPPED BY SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. POST SUGGESTS THAT USDOC
CONSIDER ELIMINATION OF ADVANCE OFFICER VISITS TO
ALLOW UTILIZATION OF MORE OF LIMITED MISSION BUDGET FOR SECRE-
TARIAL STAFFING, MAILING AND OTHER INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE
MISSION NEEDS. POST RECOGNIZES THAT ADVANCE OFFICER
VISITS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE MISSION AND WOULD ADVOCATE
THEIR REINSTATEMENT AS SOON AS MISSION BUDGETS
CAN BE RAISED TO LEVELS ADEQUATE TO COVER ALL MANDATORY
EXPENSES.

2. RE TRIAL PERIOD, POST HAS FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. THERE SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF THREE WEEKS BETWEEN
DEPARTURE OF THE ADVANCE OFFICER FROM THE POST AND THE
ARRIVAL OF THE TRADE MISSION.

B. THREE TO FIVE DAYS IS ADEQUATE FOR ADVANCE
OFFICER'S VISIT.

C. ADVANCE OFFICER SCHEDULED SHOULD BE APPROVED BY POST
AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS BEFORE SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE
OFFICER.

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D. ADVANCE OFFICER SHOULD HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER MISSION BUDGET.
POST SHOULD HAVE ADVANCE OPPORTUNITY TO SET
BUDGET MINIMUM SUFFICIENT TO COVER NECESSARY EXPENSES OF
THE MISSION.

E. BROCHURES, IN HOST COUNTRY LANGUAGE, SHOULD ARRIVE AT
POST A MINIMUM OF FOUR WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF MISSION TO ALLOW
SUFFICIENT TIME FOR ADDRESSING AND MAILING.

F. ADVANCE OFFICER SHOULD BE WELL VERSED IN HOST COUNTRY
BACKGROUND AND HAVE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA06564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750225-0185
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975067/aaaaafkn.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 A-9156, 75 OF DE13, 75 1974, 75 STATE 140278
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIALIZED TRADE MISSIONS-INCREASED ADVANCE OFFICER ACTIVITIES
TAGS: BEXP, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006